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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3025

EO 1652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS

SUBJ: PARTICIPATION IN INDOCHINA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

REF: STATE 097855

1. COUNSELOR RMRC CARLIN AND ORM DIRECTOR WIESNER SAW PRINCE SADRUDDIN, UNHCR, THIS MORNING. ALSO PRESENT WERE DEPUTY UNHCR MACE AND GOVIUS.

2. AFTER RECALLING HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR BROWN AND FRANK KELLOGG AND THE UNSYG'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, PRINCE SADRUDDIN SAID THAT THE UNHCR WILL CERTAINLY HELP. HE PRESENTED A PREVIOUSLY PREPARED AND CAREFULLY WORDED STATEMENT, SUBSTANTIVE POINTS OF WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: A. IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IS ALWAYS ANXIOUS TO HELP PROMOTE SPEEDY SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS, WHEREEVER THEY MIGHT BE.

B. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S POLICY OF HELPING "ALL SIDES" (PARIS STATEMENT), CHANNELLED ASSISTANCE TO UPROOTED PERSONS IN INDOCHINA.

C. WITH REGARD TO INDIVIDUALS FINDING THEMSELVES OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OR HABITUAL RESIDENCE, THE OFFICE TRADITIONALLY

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WILL RESPOND TO REQUESTS FROM GOVERNMENTS OF THE COUNTRIES WHERE

THE REFUGEES FIND THEMSELVES. EACH PROBLEM IS EXAMINED IN THE LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE.

D. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS FOLLOWED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH CONCERN AND IS OBTAINING FACTS FROM HIS REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FIELD.

E. UNHCR WILL, AS IN THE PAST, SEEK WAYS TO ENCOURAGE, AS NEEDED, VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, INTEGRATION IN COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM, OR RE-SETTLEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS OF CONCERN TO HIM, IN A STRICTLY HUMANITARIAN AND NON-POLITICAL MANNER. END QUOTE.

3. THE PRINCE WILL SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO GUAM WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

4. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER BELIEVES THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN SETTLING THOSE WHO HAVE EVACUATED THEMSELVES FROM VIETNAM TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA. HE RECOGNIZES THAT THE EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES ARE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION TO KEEP MANY OF THESE REFUGEES BECAUSE OF THE CHANGED POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE REGION. PARENTHETICALLY MACE AND GOVIUS SAID THAT NONE OF THE KHMER DIPLOMATS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD HAS AS YET APPROACHED UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES FOR HELP.

5. EVEN THOUGH, AS WIESNER AND CARLIN EXPLAINED, THOSE WHO ARE IN GUAM HAVE NOT BEEN LAWFULLY ENTERED INTO THE US, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO CONSIDER THESE PEOPLE AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN A US RESPONSIBILITY. HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION WAS ANALAGOUS TO THAT OF UGANDA ASIANS WHO WERE EVACUATED TO BRITAIN A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. THE UK AT THAT TIME TRIED TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE 27,000 UGANDANS BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. PRINCE SADRUDDIN APPRECIATED THE RELUCTANCE OF THE US CONGRESS AND OF CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF US CITIZENS TO ACCEPT A LARGE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND RECESSION IN THE US. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO ARE IN RECESSION AND HAVE CONSIDERABLE UNEMPLOYMENT. WIESNER MENTIONED THAT CANADA HAD ISSUED VISA LETTERS TO ABOUT 1800 INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILY HEADS AND REQUESTED US EVACUATION OF THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE PRINCE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CANADA WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE THESE.

6. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WILL APPEAL TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO TAKE
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VIETNAMESE FOR RESETTLEMENT. HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION ON THE RESULTS OF THE US APPROACHES AROUND THE WORLD (STATE 097854).

7. PRINCE SADRUDDIN POINTED OUT THAT SOME OF THE REFUGEES INCLUDING SOME IN GUAM MAY WISH TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN VIETNAM AFTER THE SITUATION SETTLES DOWN. THE UNHCR WILL BE HELPFUL IN FACILITATING THEIR REPATRIATION.

8. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND MACE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US WOULD CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO THE UNHCR PROGRAM WITHIN VIETNAM AND COULD ALLOW THE EXPENDITURE OF ITS CONTRIBUTION IN THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED AREAS. THE PRINCE MADE CLEAR THAT SUCH CONTRIBUTION WAS IN NO REPEAT NO SENSE A QUID PRO QUO FOR HELP TO THOSE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. WIESNER EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS A LEGISLATIVE PROHIBITION AGAINST USE OF US FUNDS IN NORTH VIETNAM AND THAT THE NEW AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION LEGISLATION MIGHT EXTEND THIS PROHIBITION TO ALL COMMUNIST CONTROLLED AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. MACE RECALLED HOWEVER THE RECENT USG \$5 MILLION DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION TO ICRC AND WONDERED WHETHER A MEANS COULD BE FOUND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNHCR PROGRAM IN THE SAME MANNER.

9. COMMENT: THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND HIS DEPUTY SEEMED MORE FORTHCOMING THAN HIS STATEMENT QUOTED ABOVE AND WAS DESIROUS OF RENDERING ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAMESE, AS WELL AS CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNHCR'S HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IS FULLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES, BUT LEFT THE VERY DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT THESE WOULD NOT DETER HIM. EVIDENTLY, HE BELIEVES THAT HE HAS THE FIRM SUPPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. HOWEVER, AS POINTED OUT ABOVE, HE IS NOT REPEAT NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE WILLINGNESS OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO RECEIVE AND RESETTLE REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN EVACUATED TO GUAM.

10. MISSION REQUESTS THAT RESPONSES OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO US APPEALS PURSUANT TO STATE 097854 BE SUMMARIZED FOR GENEVA IN ORDER THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO PASS INFO ON TO THE UNHCR AND ALSO TO ICEM.
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